# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6821
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
INDO-PAK RELATIONS
RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government are aware about the statement of the US Ambassador to India that, US wants the Lahore process to be re-energised and the Kashmir issue addressed by India and Pakistan at the highest level; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) The US has expressed hope for the resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan to address all outstanding issues between the two countries. The US has outlined its position on the issue, urging restraint, respect for Line of Control, refraining from violence and for renewed lines of communication. The US has repeatedly stated, including during the visit of President Clinton to South Asia, that the US will not mediate between India and Pakistan. The US has also stated Pakistan must help create conditions for a bilateral dialogue to succeed.

(b) The Government has always been committed to resolving its differences with neighbours through peaceful bilateral dialogue in an atmosphere free from the threat of force and violence. It is Government`s view that Pakistan must abjure violence, terrorism and hostile propaganda against India and respect the bilateral agreements it has solemnly entered into for a meaningful dialogue to take place.